

**Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Group**  
**Conference call: 12/4/12 at 9:00 a.m.**

**Objective:** Provide advice to the Water Operations Management Team (WOMT) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on measures to reduce adverse effects from Delta operations of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project on salmonids and green sturgeon. DOSS will work with other technical teams. DOSS notes and advice can be found at: <http://www.swr.noaa.gov/ocap/doss.htm>.

**DWR:** Edmund Yu, Kevin Reece, Tracy Pettit, James Gleim, Dan Yamanaka, Andy Chu

**FWS:** Leigh Bartoo, Roger Guinee

**NMFS:** Barb Byrne, Jeff Stuart, Barbara Rocco, Bruce Oppenheim, Garwin Yip

**Reclamation:** Russ Yaworsky

**DFG:** Krystal Acierto, Bob Fujimura, Joe Johnson, Robert Vincik

**EPA:** Erin Foresman

**SWRCB, USGS:** not present

**Agenda**

1. Fish monitoring
2. Current operations
3. Spring-run surrogate release schedule

**Fish Monitoring:** The following table presents fish monitoring data. Unless otherwise noted, reported sizes are fork length. Notes that no data were received from FWS before the meeting; therefore, there are no “detailed” trawl and seine data. See email from Speegle noted below for other data. See: <http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/calfed/calfedmonitoring.cfm>.

Location	Chippis Is. Midwater Trawl	Sacramento Trawls	Mossdale Kodiak Trawl	Beach Seines	Knights Landing RST	Tisdale Weir RST
Sample Date	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11/27–12/3	11/27–12/3
Total Catch					<b>387</b>	<b>259</b>
FR					5	25
WR					282	188
SR					13	20
LFR					14	5
Ad-Clipped Chinook					73	21
DS						
Splittail						
Longfin						
SH (ad-clip)						
SH (wild)						

<b>W. Temp. (avg. °F)</b>					56.0	52.4
<b>Flows (avg. cfs)</b>					11,254	15,833
<b>Turbidity (avg. NTU)</b>					54.2	57.5
<b>WR/LFR Avg. CPUE</b>					1.64	0.80
<b>FR/SR Avg. CPUE</b>					0.11	0.13

**Key:** FR = Fall run; LFR = Late-fall run; SR = Spring run; WR = Winter run; SH = Steelhead; DS = Delta smelt; LFS = Longfin smelt; CPUE = catch per unit of effort; N/A = not available

**Fish Monitoring:** The first late-fall-run Chinook production (848,000) from Coleman National Fish Hatchery were released on 11/30/12 and reached Knights Landing in 3 days. There is no confirmation that they have passed through the Delta to Chipps Island yet. Fremont Weir water levels are at the crest (33.5 ft), but water has not yet spilled over into the Yolo Bypass. DFG crews put boards in the Fremont Weir fish ladder yesterday; however, the water levels are very close to overtopping them. Water levels at Moulton Weir are just below flood stage; Colusa Weir flows overtopped on 12/3 and peaked at 66 feet. Water levels went down but will likely go back up again on 12/6. Tisdale Weir is approximately 3 feet above its reported crest.

**Report for November 25 through December 1 from Jonathan Speegle rec'd during DOSS and reported by Oppenheim** ( database could not be accessed today): Beach Seines, 46 CHNW, 3 CHNS, & 1 CHNL; Mossdale Trawls, no species of management concern; Sacramento Trawls, 40 CHNW, & 4 CHNL; Chipps Island Trawls, 1 CHNL & no other species of management concern. (Note that Speegle provided a corrected report after the DOSS conference call, which is included as an appendix to these notes.)

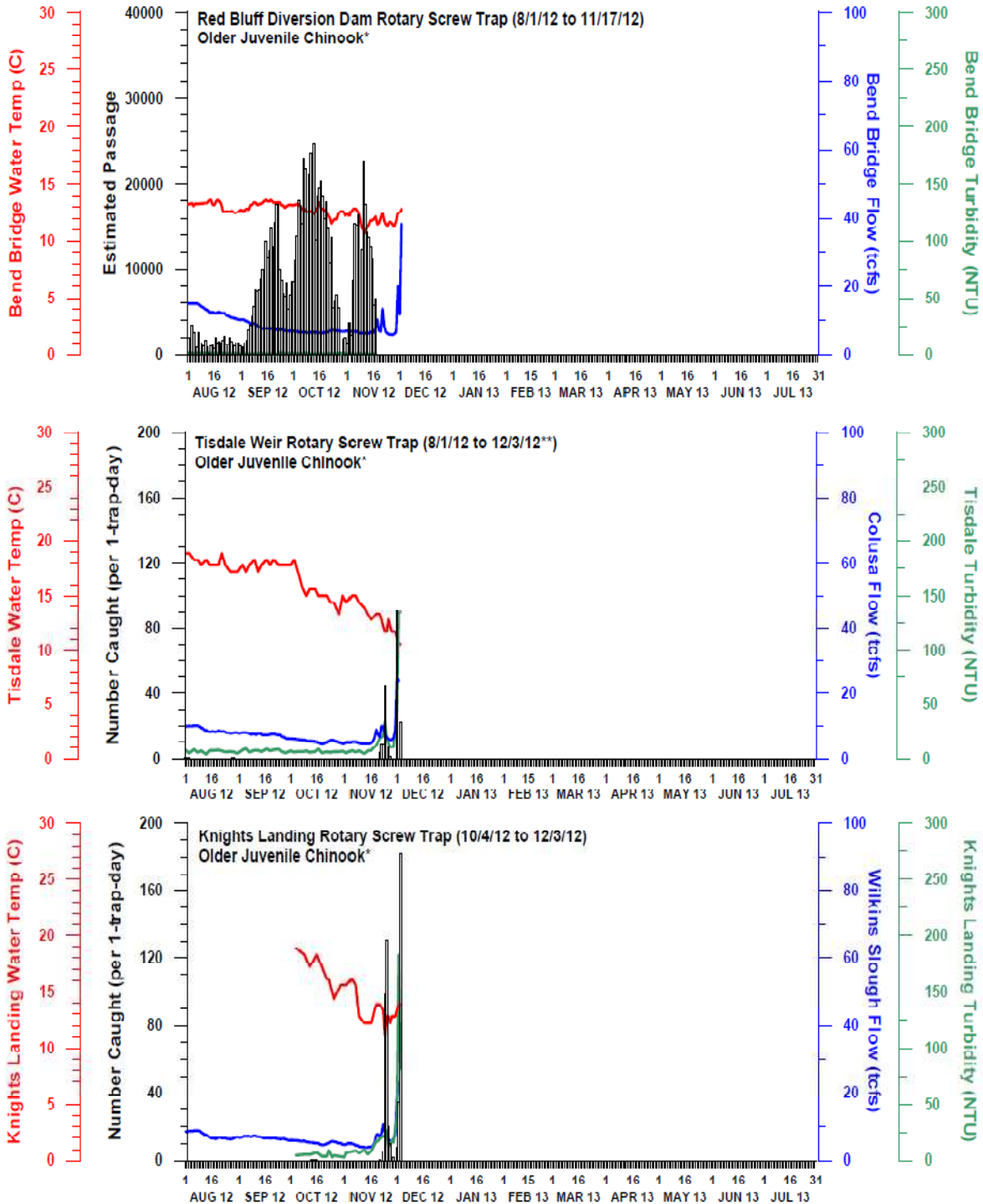
**Fish Salvage<sup>1</sup>:** One non-clipped Chinook was observed last week (11/29/12, >325 mm, no race identified) at CVP. Yesterday (12/3), SWP observed three non-clipped Chinook in the 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. counts (139, 140, and 148 mm), which were classified as older juveniles. Because the DFG loss-density data were not yet available, Fujimura (DFG) tentatively reported a salvage of 10 (during a 30-min count), while Chu and Yu (DWR) calculated a DWR preliminary loss-density estimate of 2.01 fish/TAF. Aasen (DFG) will send an email with the final loss and loss-density data and will summarize the data on the DFG .ftp website later today.

No salmon were observed at the CVP yesterday. No sturgeon or steelhead were observed at either facility for the reporting week.

**NOTE:** Below are graphs provided by DWR through 12/3/12 for older juvenile salmon and steelhead in the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers. For additional graphs, please visit the DWR website at: <http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/calfed/calfedmonitoring.cfm>.

<sup>1</sup> The term "salvage" can refer to the number of fish observed during a 30-minute count, or the number of fish expanded for the 2-hour period of the sample. For these notes, we used "observed" fish as the number counted and "salvaged" to mean the number expanded.

# NUMBER OF OLDER JUVENILE CHINOOK MEASURED IN THE SACRAMENTO RIVER



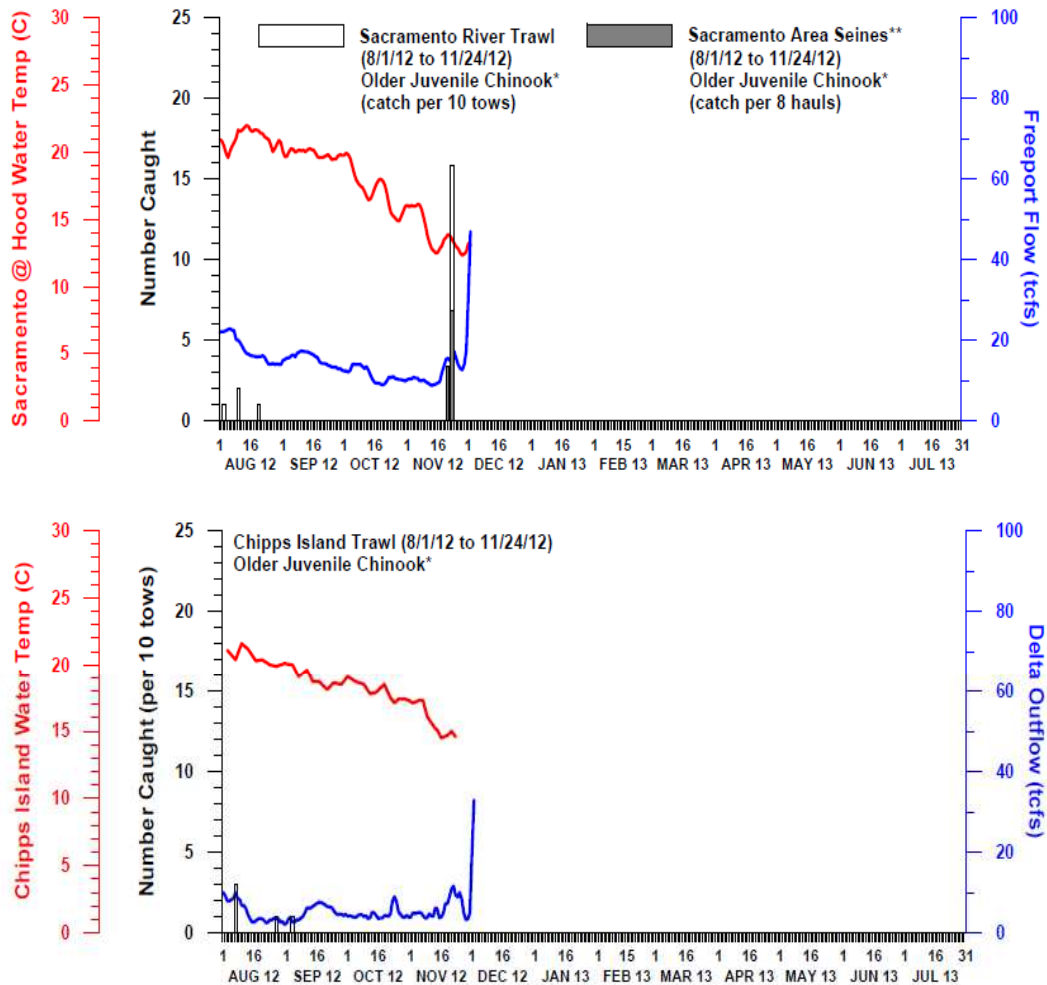
DWR-DCS 03 DEC 2012

Preliminary data from DFG, FWS, and CDEC; subject to revision.

\*Older juvenile Chinook defined as all Chinook above the minimum length for winter-run (Frank Fisher model).

\*\* Tisdale Weir: One older juvenile caught on 9/14, 43 older juvenile caught on 11/25, and 85 older juvenile caught on 12/2. However, CPUE was not be calculated due to problems with the cone clickers or due to the fluctuation of the total cone revolutions upon arrival. As a result, data are not presented on the graph.

## NUMBER OF OLDER JUVENILE CHINOOK MEASURED IN THE LOWER SACRAMENTO RIVER & CHIPPS ISLAND



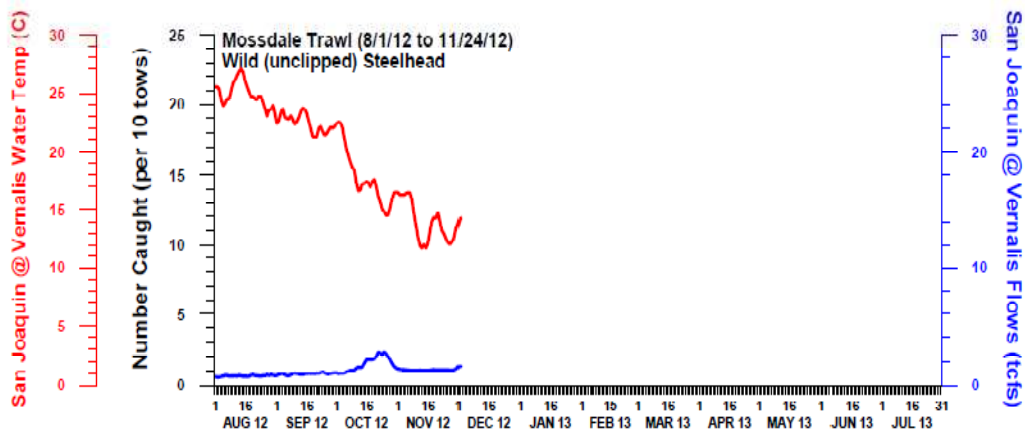
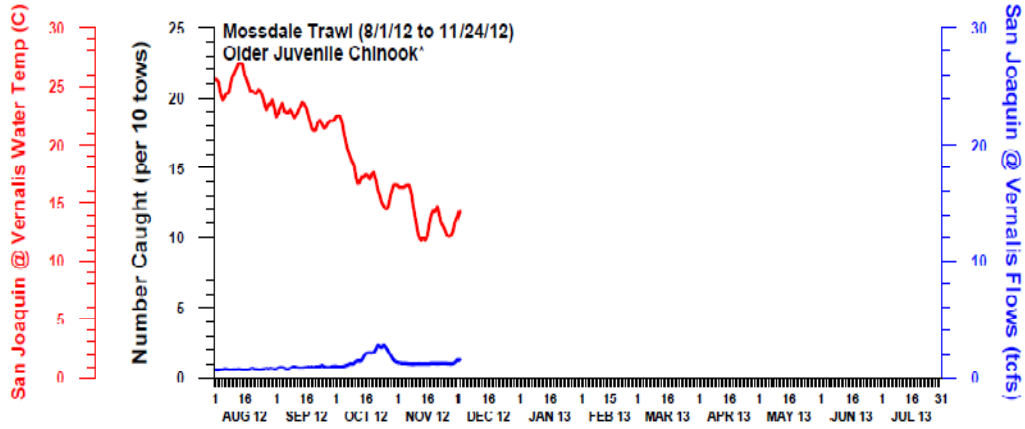
DWR-DES 03 DEC 2012

Preliminary data from FWS and CDEC; subject to revision.

\*Older juvenile Chinook defined as all Chinook above the minimum length for winter-run (Frank Fisher model).

\*\*Sacramento area seine route consists of the following seine sites: Verona, Elkhorn, Sand Cove, Discovery Park, American River, Miller Park, Sherwood Harbor, and Garcia Bend. Bars are stacked if Chinook caught from the trawl and seines are from the same day.

## NUMBER OF OLDER JUVENILE CHINOOK AND STEELHEAD MEASURED IN THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER



DWR-DES 03 DEC 2012

Preliminary data from FWS and CDEC; subject to revision.

\*Older juvenile Chinook defined as all Chinook above the minimum length for winter-run (Frank Fisher model).

**Operations (12/4/12)**

SWP		CVP	
Exports (cfs)			
Clifton Court Forebay	6,680	Jones Pumping Plant	4,500
Reservoir Releases (cfs)			
Feather - Oroville	2,075	Nimbus	1,850
		Sacramento - Keswick	4,500
		Stanislaus - Goodwin	275
Reservoir Storage (in TAF, % of capacity)			
San Luis (SWP)	301 (28)	San Luis (CVP)	547 (57)
Oroville	2,133	Shasta	2,847 (increased by 402 from recent storm; still 400 below encroachment)
New Melones	1,530	Folsom	514 (likely to be at flood encroachment by end of week – about 50k below right now)
Delta Operations			
DCC	Closed	Sacramento River at Freeport (cfs)	55,606
Outflow Index (cfs)	64,800	San Joaquin River (cfs) at Vernalis	1,767
Total Delta Inflow (cfs)	61,618	OMR (daily) (cfs)	-7,552
Water Temperature (°F)		OMR 5 day (cfs)	-8,153
X2 (km)	78	OMR 14 day (cfs)	-7,724
E/I (%)	45.0 (will decrease within next few days)		

**Water Quality:**

Bend Bridge flows peaked at >70,000 cfs on 12/2/12. Turbidity coming into the Delta has increased; however, at the three delta smelt criteria locations, the equipment is not correctly reading the turbidity because of all the debris but these locations are not actually monitored for delta smelt until 12/20. At Holland and Prisoners Point, the data are correct. The Delta is still in balanced condition but COA accounting was suspended; DWR has not declared “excess conditions” but is still evaluating the data. The evaluation considers both water quality and outflow conditions. There are no water quality concerns at this point.

**Weather Forecast:** The bulk of the rain was this past weekend. After today, there might be some precipitation through the remainder of the week, but things should dry out after tomorrow (Wednesday). There will be a colder trend next week with snow at lower elevations. Because of the series of recent and warmer storms, the snowpack from October that was below 7,000 feet has already melted.

**Spring-Run Surrogate Releases:** The tentative schedule for spring-run surrogate release from Coleman National Fish Hatchery (CNFH) is as follows:

1st release: after Dec 15

2nd release: January 17

3rd release: February 7

CNFH scheduled the first of three surrogate releases in December and the second two in January. The first released will most likely be 12/17. CNFH will notify DOSS through Oppenheim (NMFS) to confirm the date. Approximately 70,000–80,000 surrogates (late-fall Chinook) will be released on each date and 100% will be marked. The dates were purposely chosen so as to not overlap with the second late-fall production release of 800,000 scheduled for January 3. The release dates also coincide with the majority of wild spring run coming out of the tributaries. CNFH will consider flow and storms and will time releases to coincide with a storm event. DOSS approved of the schedule.

The question was raised about the definition of “older juvenile.” The determination is based on what the minimum length-at-date (growth rate) for winter run is but varies daily on an increasing curve. For example, the minimum length yesterday for older juveniles was 46 mm using the Delta model. Once juvenile salmon reach a length of 300 mm or greater, they are not considered classifiable with the Delta model.

**Smelt Working Group (SWG):** Did not meet.

**DOSS advice to WOMT and NMFS:** None.

**Next Meeting:** The next DOSS conference call meeting is scheduled for 12/11/12 at 9:00 a.m.

# Appendix A. Corrected DatCall Report



Barbara Rocco - NOAA Affiliate <barbara.rocco@noaa.gov>

## Correction, DatCall for STFWO Nov25-Dec01

**Jonathan\_Speegle@fws.gov** <Jonathan\_Speegle@fws.gov> Tue, Dec 4, 2012 at 11:31 AM  
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Correction! DatCall for November 25 - December 01, 2012

Beach Seines, 56 CHNW, 3 CHNS, 2 CHNL  
Mossdale Trawls, No species of management concern  
Sacramento Trawls, 40 CHNW, & 4 CHNL  
Chippis Island Trawls, 2 CHNL, 1 LFS, & 1 DSM

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